



Developing Leaders

May 2008 Session 8 & Graduation
Issue 1



(Front to back, left to right) Lori Hamblin, First Citizens National Bank; Amy Letts, Mansfield University; Melissa Wise, First Citizens National Bank; Phyllis Marriner, Tioga County Head Start; Joey Heckler, Northwest Savings Bank; Michelle Moffett, Ward Manufacturing LLC; Tiny Finch, Laurel Health Systems; Lori Ranck, Mansfield University; Brian Tevlin, Citizens & Northern Bank; Steve Weir, Vulcraft of New York; Kelly Irwin, Partners in Progress; Deb Adkins, Tioga County Partnership for Community Health

Tioga County Development Corporation's Community Leadership Program Class of 2008 held its final session on May 16th, 2008 at the Penn College of Technology/North Campus. The final day of the Leadership Program included revisiting Personal Mission Statements with Deb Sawyer, individual presentations of personal portfolios, and team presentations of their projects. The day concluded with a graduation ceremony for the *Community Leadership Program Class of 2008*. Graduation speaker and previous graduate of *CLP*, Annie Ostrom, discussed her experiences in the program and how it encouraged her to make her dream of creating a monument to fallen soldiers become a reality. At the conclusion of the day, the 13 participants of the *Community Leadership Program Class of 2008* graduated with the skills and knowledge to become better leaders and more involved in their local communities.



Tioga County Development Corporation

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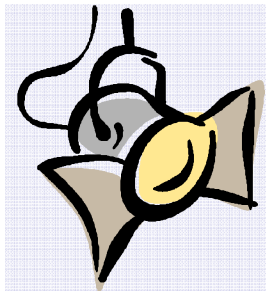
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**BEST WISHES TO THE
CLASS OF 2008!!!**

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CLP CLASS OF 2008

Spotlight



Team two of the *Community Leadership Program* has earned a special spotlight in this month's newsletter. They were the winners of a game presented by team three during the final session. The game was based on the model of the television show "Cash Cab" currently showing on The Discovery Channel.

Questions regarding information in this year's newsletters were asked of each team, one team at a time, with increasing difficulty. Each team was offered a chance at a final question that was worth double or nothing and everyone was sporting enough to take the final question, which added to the fun! All the teams - including the "Staff Team" - did a fantastic job, although team two beat them to a pulp. Way to go Team Two! You knew your CLP trivia well!

The winning team - team two (minus Russ Gile) - is pictured above. From left to right is Kelly Irwin of Partners in Progress, Lori Ranck of Mansfield University, and Steve Weir of Vulcraft of New York. Russ Gile, unfortunately, was unable to attend the session, but his picture is also shown above.

p.s. Russ, we missed you at graduation! But, see you soon!

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Tioga County Development Corporation's Community Leadership Program class of 2008 had their eighth session on Friday, May 2, 2008. The session, sponsored by Grand Canyon Ecological Services and Penelec, was titled "Quality of Life" and was held at Northern Appalachian Research Laboratory in Asaph. The session included a review of the Consensus Circle, a discussion about Nature Quest, a hands-on activity exploring four eco-system processes, field station activities and more consensus circle work and break out sessions. The day concluded with a Native American Greeting Circle.

The day started with a review of the Consensus Circle. The group was first introduced to the Consensus Circle at the opening retreat for the Class of 2008. Jim Weaver, Tioga County planner and Ecologist for Grand Canyon Ecological Services, reviewed the process and led the group through a Consensus Circle that reintroduced everyone to Mr. Weaver and broke the ice. During this session, Jim discussed local ecological topics and spoke briefly about the work done at the Northern Appalachian Research Laboratory.

Merlin Benner, Consultant, held the next session and discussed his passion for local outdoor recreation and how people within Tioga County can safely and supportively

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promote geo-tourism. Mr. Benner is involved in an organization called Nature Quest that is interested in developing a stronger geo-tourism base in Tioga County. Mr. Brenner described geo-tourism as a form of tourism that is gentle to the environment, helps people love our area and puts the least amount of strain on the local ecological systems.

Next the group broke into four teams to work on creating visual representations of the four eco-system processes. The groups described the energy cycle, community cycle, water cycle, and mineral cycle. Each group created a drawing and presented their work by describing what the drawing represented.

After lunch, which was sponsored by Penelec, the group took a tour of the Northern Appalachian Research Laboratory and explored some of the work being done by the facility. The group was fascinated by the current projects and enjoyed touching eels and viewing the various fish and mussels that are located within the laboratory.



Following the informative tour, the Community Leadership Class of 2008 broke up into four groups again to explore some hands on stations on Straight Run. The group explored water quality, macroinvertebrates, dendrology and birds. Each



mini-exploration session yielded lots of interest and awe from the class. In the water quality station, the groups tested the pH, temperature, and quality of the water. At the macroinvertebrates station, the groups took a sample pulled from the creek bottom and located and separated bugs. The group then classified the bugs and determined the quality of the water from the amount and variety of bugs that were present in the water. At the bird station, the groups learned to focus binoculars and look for and classify birds. Finally, at the

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Dendrology station, the groups learned about tree identification and were given a handy field guide to use later.

After the field stations, the groups returned inside for a final Consensus Circle to discuss environmental issues. After the Consensus Circle, the group broke out into smaller groups to discuss the topics that were covered in the larger Consensus Circle. The smaller groups attempted to tackle local environmental problems such as over consumption, recycling, and water quality.

To end the day, the group participated in a Native American Greeting Circle. The circle gave everyone in the group a chance to say goodbye and was an interesting close to a very interesting day.

To learn more visit these sites:

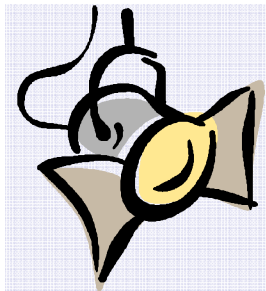
<http://www.lsc.usgs.gov/NARLindex.asp>

<http://managingwholes.com/chadwick.htm>



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Spotlight



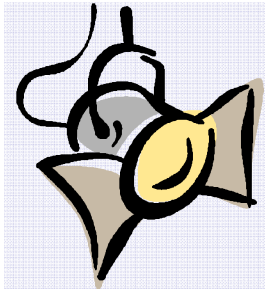
Class of 2008 *Community Leadership Program* graduate, Lori Ranck, is originally from North East, Pennsylvania. She moved to Tioga County in 1985. She met her husband, Gary, at Patterson's Lumber Company and it was love at first sight! They have been married for 14 years and have two children still at home. They also have two older children that are each married and one grandchild.

Lori is a full-time employee at Mansfield University as a Fiscal Technician in Budget Planning. In her position, she assists with projected budget calculations, monitors and processes budget transfers and travel reimbursement requests and provides budget and travel training to all MU employees. She is also a half-time student at Mansfield University, so most of her hobbies and interests are limited to studying and maintaining her high GPA. She hopes to complete her Business Major within the next few years.

Lori joined the *Community Leadership Program* for professional and personal growth. She would like to share her mother's positive words of wisdom: "You can do anything you put your mind to."

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Spotlight

Last, but not least, is this year's current *Community Leadership Program* graduate, Steve Weir. He moved to Tioga County sixteen years ago, which he says felt like he was moving back home. He spent most of his summers living in Tioga County with his grandparents while growing up.

Steve and his wife, Andrea, have three daughters and the youngest ones are twins. They have just recently added a new member to their family, an English Springer Spaniel puppy. This is their first pet and all are very excited. Last fall, the Weirs purchased Steve's grandparent's old farmhouse. It sat empty for two years before the purchase, so now most of his spare time goes into renovating the house and getting the lawn back into shape.



Steve is a Design Engineer at Vulcraft of New York, which is part of the Nucor family. They fabricate steel trusses and metal decks for commercial buildings. His job involves taking information from an architect's drawings and creating instructions for the shop to cut the pieces of steel and weld them together. His primary responsibility is to make sure the steel parts and weld sizes are strong enough to carry the loads identified on the drawings. He answers technical questions on their products and helps customers solve problems. Occasionally, an order will require shipment in several oversized loads, so he works with the traffic team to ensure the product is shipped in a way that will allow for efficient construction.

Steve chose to participate in the *Community Leadership Program* because of the opportunity to improve his leadership skills and build more confidence when speaking in front of a group. One of the words of wisdom that he liked from our opening session was that "a leader is always positive." He considers this to have a dual meaning: one is optimism, the other is confidence. As Steve says, "I think both are necessary for a leader to be successful."

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CLP CLASS OF 2003 ALUMNI FEATURE



Our featured Alumnus is Linda Stager from the Class of 2003. She grew up in Nelson until the 10th grade, when she and her family moved to Mansfield. She continued her education at Mansfield University and received her Masters in Social Work from Temple University.

Linda currently lives in Wellsboro and her summer home is in the woods beside a small private lake outside of Tioga, so if she isn't in Wellsboro, you'll find her

there with her husband Dennis. They have two grown boys and are expecting their first grandchild in the very near future.

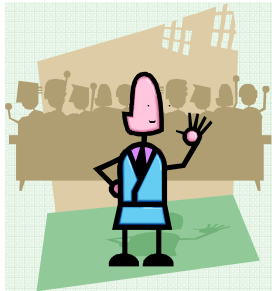
Linda has worked for Tioga County Department of Human Services for 35 years doing many different jobs. Currently, she is the Assistant Administrator for the HSA and is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the programs they have available through their office.

For recreation Linda has many diverse interests. She likes riding in her small convertible, taking pictures, volunteering at church, and learning new things. She is a cancer survivor and is interested in the journey so many have to make and the potential gifts that come out of that journey. She finds that, "she's interested in a lot and a master of not much".

Linda feels that the *Community Leadership Program* was one of the best things she has ever done. She found it to be inspiring and life changing. It challenged her and helped her to "shine". She made friends, learned new skills, and helped to provide a fantastic service to the community through her team project. Not long after she graduated from the *Community Leadership Program*, she personally and professionally accomplished things she has always dreamt of but thought it was not reachable. "From a little spark may burst a mighty flame."

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YLP CLASS OF 2008 TEEN SCENE



Recent *Youth Leadership Program* graduate, James Davis, is the final youth spotlight for the 2007/2008 year. James is the son of Jim and Darla Davis of Westfield and he is a Junior at Cowanesque Valley High School. He is busy with the high school band, CV's baseball team, Spanish Club, Student Council, and the National Honor Society.

When asked what he has gained from his experience with the *Youth Leadership Program* this year, he responded that he has learned what it takes to be a leader and how to lead effectively when in a group setting. His favorite part of the program has been meeting and interacting with all the different people involved in the program.

He hopes to attend a four year college and work toward a degree in the computer field. His desire is to become certified to teach computer classes. By the sounds of it, James has picked a field with many opportunities available and he'll surely go far. Good luck James! We wish you the best!

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FINAL THOUGHTS

May the road rise up to meet you, may the wind be ever at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face and the rain fall softly on your fields. And until we meet again, may God hold you in the hollow of his hand. - Irish Blessing

The world is round and the place which may seem like the end may also be the beginning, - Ivy Baker Priest

How lucky I am to have something that makes saying goodbye so hard. - Carol Sobieski and Thomas Meehan, *Annie*

May you always have work for your hands to do.
May your pockets hold always a coin or two.
May the sun shine bright on your windowpane.
May the rainbow be certain to follow each rain.
May the hand of a friend always be near you.
And may God fill your heart with gladness to cheer you. - Irish Blessing

There is a good reason they call these ceremonies "commencement exercises." Graduation is not the end; it's the beginning. - Orrin Hatch

Memory is a way of holding onto the things you love, the things you are, the things you never want to lose. - From the television show *The Wonder Years*

It is indeed ironic that we spend our school days yearning to graduate and our remaining days waxing nostalgic about our school days. - Isabel Waxman

How did it get so late so soon?
It's night before it's afternoon.
December is here before it's June.
My goodness how the time has flown.
How did it get so late so soon? - Dr. Seuss